

## In the Company of Classmates: Forming a Study Group

Study groups are a great way to prepare for class and meet new people, especially if you live off campus. Study groups can build a sense of belonging, create a support network, and expand your understanding of the material. By listening to a wide variety of perspectives, you will be better prepared for class discussions and exams. In your study group, you will ask each other questions, compare notes, test for memorization, brainstorm, and share ideas. While this should not be your only means of studying, study group can be a great supplement to studying and memorizing material on your own.

Ideally, you want to select five to seven classmates who are engaged in class. Being approaching two to three classmates who you think would make a good study partners and ask them to make additional suggestions to complete your study group. Write down everyone's names and contact information and make a copy of the list for other members of the group. You may also want to keep the contact information on your computer.

Schedule a time to meet each week. You can arrange to meet at someone's room or apartment, on campus at a café or lounge, or even outside, as long as there are not too many distractions. The library may even have some areas designated for group study.

### Tips for Successful Group Studying

**Start Early.** Although it may seem too soon for studying, you should be thinking about forming a study group during the first week of class. Try to find out to seven students in each class who are interested in coming. Invite students who participate in class, take notes, ask questions, and take the class seriously.

**Develop Ground Rules.** A good study group is professional. That means you meet at the same time and place every week; you know what topics need to be covered; and you have decided how long the study group will meet (two to three hours is typical). The best time to study is as soon after class as possible. Arrange a time and place that works for everyone. You may also want to discuss attendance and preparation expectations.

**Assign Roles.** Typical roles include discussion leader, time keeper, and note taker. Rotate roles so everyone has a chance to participate.

**Know the Syllabus.** Go over the syllabus during your first study group session and review important dates (e.g., project due dates, quizzes, and exams). Know where you are going and try to study ahead so you are familiar with the material before your professor covers it.

**Be Prepared.** Come to every study group having reviewed your notes and reading assignments.

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